

**Uffculme Parish Council**  
**Minutes of meeting held**  
**Monday 5 July 2021 at Magelake & on Google Meet**

**Chairman:** P Blackman

**Present:** R Kingdom M Pollard T Verona J Nash T Pointing S Kidd

**21.07.01 Apologies for Absence**

J Gardner – Family P Cornish – Holiday I Duncan - Holiday

**21.07.02 To Approve the Minutes of the meeting held 7 June 2021**

The minutes were approved as an official Council record.

**21.07.03 County Councillors Report**

Councillor Radford had circulated a report by email in advance of the meeting which is appended to the minutes.

**21.07.04 District Councillors Report**

Councillor Chesterton advised that Jenny Clifford, Head of Planning at MDDC would be leaving. There will be an appointment of a new Director and also a Head of Development.

Councillor Evans advised that he had agreed with DCC Officers to arrange to cut back the overgrown footpaths along Chapple Hill and also along from Bridwell towards Selgars Mill.

The Broadpath Liaison meeting would take place in July by zoom and advised he had Trevor Emms as being a representative for the Parish Council – Esther Hagelstein would also still attend. The issues regarding restoration had been discussed with John Penney of Aggregate Industries and the feelings over the delays with any progress conveyed, Aggregate Industries are willing to engage into discussions surrounding a country park/fishing lakes, along with other options. As those familiar with the history will understand this is early days but encouraging that Aggregate Industries will discuss.

The new MDDC social housing pod designs can now be seen at Cullompton Leisure Centre and everyone is encouraged to visit to see the new designs – the Pod is designed to be fully encompassing of all white goods and will be an affordable way for MDDC to provide additional housing in a short space of time.

Councillor Warren advised that the issue surrounding tree felling at, or near to the Belle Vue site had been passed to planning enforcement and the police as there was photographs of bird nests and eggs. This will be investigated.

Similarly, the trees which had been felled at Luccombe Park had now received a split decision – some trees had been affected by Ash die back disease and therefore the felling was required on safety grounds – some trees had been conditional of previous planning permission and therefore there had been breaches of conditions.

**21.07.05 Councillor vacancies**

The Council will continue to advertise vacancies and encourage any interested party to join the next meeting. The Clerk confirmed that all vacancies were available for co-option.

**21.07.06 Finance**

**21.07.06.01 To Approve the June 2021 Financial Statement**

The June financial statement was approved as official Council minutes.

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**21.07.06.02 Coldharbour Mill**

The Clerk shared images to the meeting of the proposed Cherry Picker that Coldharbour Mill were trying to fund the purchase of. The cost of the machine was in the region of £18,500, inc VAT, £15,500, net of VAT. To date the Mill had successfully raised £5,000 from the Friends of the Mill, Councillor Radford and the Mill's own funds. Therefore they were looking for additional funding in the region of £10,500, plus VAT. The Clerk advised the meeting that from previously agreed recent budgets the Mill had a sum of £10,000, partially allocated.

The Clerk referenced agenda item 21.07.06.03 in respect of the letter shared from the lights committee in respect of a shortfall of funds this year – the cost to the lights committee of hiring Cherry pickers each year was in the region of £700-800 per machine. It was understood that Coldharbour Mill would be happy to share the machine that they were looking to acquire with the village as a whole and therefore the machine was available for use by the lights committee, saving up to £800 per year.

The meeting discussed new funding that the Mill had obtained through grants and it was understood that this type of machine would not be covered by grants awarded. Therefore the meeting agreed to purchase the Cherry picker, provided that the Mill could fund the shortfall after a commitment from the Parish Council of £10,000.

**21.07.06.03 Uffculme Christmas Lights**

The Clerk had shared the letter received from the lights committee in respect of the lack of funds due to restricted fundraising activities imposed by Covid. The Committee were keen to purchase new lights for Chapple Hill/High Street and the anticipated cost of these was in the region of £3,000. The meeting had already committed to supporting Coldharbour Mill in the purchase of a Cherry Picker which would save the lights team funds year on year but also resolved to commit £3,000 towards the cost of new lights.

**21.07.06.04 Uffculme Mens Club**

The Clerk advised the meeting that Wyle Building Surveying Limited had been instructed to carry out the building survey and that members of the Club's committee were liaising with the surveyor to schedule the report. This was expected this month. Councillor Kingdom updated the meeting on the quotes that the Men's Club had sought in respect of the maintenance of the building – these ranged from £9,775 to £12,845. The meeting agreed with the works in principle, although it was raised by the Clerk for the meeting to consider if a building survey should take place before works to see if it identified any other works that could be undertaken at the same time to save costs in the future. It was agreed that the Council would cover the cost of a survey, which the Committee would arrange, and following review the Council would then be in a position to confirm the works and costs. It was agreed that Councillor Duncan would review the Building Survey.

**21.07.06.05 Bus Stop**

Councillor Kingdom advised that the committee has not started on works yet and that there had been no committed expenditure yet.

**21.07.06.06 Magelake repairs/fence gate**

All works had now been completed and paid for.

**21.07.06.07 Pond Regeneration**

Again there was little progress – the Clerk had advised the Council's solicitor that time was running out and the conditions Westward were wanting to impose on the Council in the lease were not workable – it was agreed that we should look to press Westward further and invite them to a meeting, where we should also invite the press to see if this additional pressure would move things forward in a workable solutions.

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**21.07.06.08 Leat Repairs**

The works were scheduled for September 2021.

**21.07.06.09 Banking Mandate**

The Clerk advised that the change of signatories had now been processed.

**21.07.06.10 New Devon Flag**

The new flag had been delivered and was in pride of place.

**21.07.06.11 Play Area Survey/Maintenance**

The Clerk advised that the first scheduled maintenance inspection was set of week ended 23 July 2021, although no date/time had been advised. Inspections would take place every 4 months.

**21.07.06.12 Community Group Funding – Square Corner/Church**

*Councillor Kidd declared an interest and did not take part in discussions.*

The Clerk had received a request for funding to support the daily activities been organised by St Mary's Church for the community, The Clerk shared a draft schedule of activities and these were aimed at the community as a whole and were not religion based. The meeting agreed to offer funding from the community fund of £200.

**21.07.07 Business Arising**

**21.07.07.01 Hillhead / Broadpath**

Councillor Evans advised that the meeting had been rescheduled from 6 July to 26 July.

**21.07.07.02 ABN Feed Mill**

There was no report available.

**21.07.07.03 Uffculme Mens Club**

No report was available.

**21.07.07.04 Uffculme Bowling Club**

The Clerk had received the minutes of the meeting on 10 June 2021 and these reported they had successfully received a number of MDCC grants and that current cash held in the bank was £37,000.

**21.07.07.05 Green Team**

Councillor Kingdom advised that there was no report.

**21.07.07.06 Allotments**

As Councillor Duncan was away no report was available.

**21.07.07.07 Parish Maintenance Update**

Councillor Pollard updated that the works on Commercial Road had taken place.

There had been concerns over the ability to cut the grass at the cemetery and it was agreed a discreet letter should be written to the families of the graves which were difficult to cut

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The hedge behind the MUGA needed to be cut back and this was agreed.

The footpath along Markers Road needed to be cut back to allow a safe route along the footpath.

The issue of very faded white lines in the village was discussed and agreed to contact the new highways officer to investigate what action can be taken.

**21.07.07.08 Uffculme Pond Lease**

As above the Clerk advised that there had been no progress in respect of agreeing the pond lease.

**21.07.07.09 Re-opening of Public Toilet**

The hand sanitiser station had been installed and therefore once cleaning had been scheduled the reopening could commence.

**21.07.07.10 Future Meeting format**

The Clerk advised that other than the usual posting there was nothing to report.

**21.07.07.12 Traffic and speeding issues/Community Speedwatch**

Councillor Pointing updated the meeting regarding a post to gather interest in being part of a community speed watch and traffic issues group. He stressed that the group would be supported by the Parish Council, but not run by to ensure the community were fully involved and accountable.

**21.07.07.13 School Report**

Councillor Nash advised that she had had problems in getting the pre school and Kingwood to action their interest in the planters – after initially seeming interested this has led to no progress. The meeting agreed that a winter bulb planting effort in September may be a better way forward.

The Schools are carrying out a testing trial which has led to 9 people having to self-isolate.

**21.07.07.14 Climate Emergency**

The Clerk had circulated details of the proposal to declare a climate emergency within the Parish. The meeting agreed and committed to becoming more resilient when it came to climate change and considering this as a factor in decisions that the Council undertakes. Some examples of this included hedge trimming and what equipment we would support the purchase/funding of, as well as encouraging community groups to adopt a climate considerate approach.

The statement agreed by the Council was:

Uffculme Parish Council resolves to recognise the existence of a climate emergency. The Parish Council fully supports the Mid Devon District and Devon County Councils declaration on the Climate Emergency.

The Parish Council will embody the Climate Emergency into the decisions it makes and where possible, will work with the Uffculme community and community organisations, District and County Council and other parish councils to establish local initiatives that will contribute to and enhance all aspects of local lives and livelihoods and help the Parish become more resilient with Climate Change.

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**21.07.08 Police Report**

Councillor Pointing had circulated the police figures to Councillors ahead of the meeting and these were discussed and agreed to append to the minutes.

**21.07.09 Clerks Report**

**21.07.09.01 Water Fountain**

Due to Covid-19 there has never been an unveiling of the water fountain. Unfortunately, this remains the case for the time being.

**The next meeting of the Council will be held on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2021 subject to confirmation by the Clerk.**